

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE **A-1**

NEW YORK TIMES
17 November 1984

Assailing West, Stalin's Daughter Says She Longed to See Children

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Nov. 16 — Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, said today that she had returned to the Soviet Union because in her 17 years in the West she was never free for a single day and lived tormented by guilt and longing for her children in Russia.

Miss Alliluyeva, who brought her American-born daughter with her when she returned after living for 15 years in the United States and two in England, said her decision was "purely human" and voluntary.

Restricted Group of Reporters

She said she had contemplated coming back twice before. She said her final decision on Sept. 10, which was announced by the Soviet Union on Nov. 2, was prompted by the illness of her son and the loss of contact with her oldest daughter, who are both Soviet citizens.

Miss Alliluyeva, 58 years old, appeared at a news conference that was hastily convened for a restricted group of Western and Soviet reporters by the Foreign Ministry. The news conference was held after several days of intense efforts by Western correspondents to make contact with her, and after the United States Embassy had made official inquiries about her 13-year-old American-born daughter, Olga Peters.

She appeared composed as she quietly read a long statement in Russian and answered questions. She displayed emotion only when defending her right to bring her daughter to the Soviet Union, and when she asked Western reporters to leave her alone henceforth.

In her prepared statement, Miss Alliluyeva spoke of being lured to the West by "blind idealization of the so-called free world."

"Having found myself in this so-called free world, I was not free there for one single day," she read. "There I was in the hands of businessmen, lawyers, political figures and publishers who turned the name of my father, my own name and my life into a sensational commodity."

"In those days I became a favorite pet of the C.I.A., all those who even went to the limits of telling what I should write, when and how. The sense of profound guilt never left me in all those years."

In her statement — in which she did not say explicitly whether she meant there was no freedom in the West generally, or for her in a specifically personal sense — Miss Alliluyeva sounded many of the themes common to Soviet propaganda, including misery and unemployment in the West, C.I.A. manipulation, purported censorship, Western callousness to the Soviet sacrifices in World War II and the unhappiness of defectors. But in her answers to questions she seemed more eager to reduce the political import of her defection and return and to stress the personal aspects.

Miss Alliluyeva, who defected in 1967 in India, frequently criticized the Soviet Union during her years in the West. Answering a question about those criticisms today, she declared that "nobody fabricated anything," and added, "I always say what I think."

'Main Interest Is Family'

"I don't want to talk of political matters, of different systems and so on," she said. "That is secondary. What is important is that I am again with my family. For men politics is indeed important, but for women the main interest is the family."

Miss Alliluyeva, who uses her mother's name, has a son, Iosif Alliluyev, 39, by her first marriage, and a daughter, Yekaterina Zhdanov, 33, by her second. The son is a doctor in Moscow, and the daughter a geophysicist who works in Kamchatka in the Soviet Far East.

Miss Alliluyeva, who was baptized into the Russian Orthodox Church in 1962, before she defected, also said she remained a believer. "I would even say that without deep faith I would not have the awful guilt that hung over me and finally brought me home," she added.

Many diplomats had surmised that Miss Alliluyeva would be obliged to give such a news conference as the price of receiving back her Soviet citizenship, which was stripped from her in 1969. Miss Alliluyeva said she wanted to issue some "clarifications" because of "recent speculation in the press that my return to the U.S.S.R. with my daughter was forced."

Miss Alliluyeva said her efforts to live like other Americans, to mingle with writers, painters and intellectuals, had come to nothing. She said that American and British publishers had refused to publish her third book, dealing with her disappointment with life in the West, and that it appeared only in a limited edition in India.

Miss Alliluyeva said she had tried to move from the United States — to Switzerland, Sweden, Greece or India — but was allowed to move only to Britain.

Asked later to elaborate on her assertions of C.I.A. control, Miss Alliluyeva said that before she arrived in the United States she fell "in the hands of a very powerful law firm, Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst, who gave me several papers to sign, which I didn't understand and whose meaning was not explained to me."

She said these papers stripped her of her rights, and she charged that "this firm had very close ties to the State Department and the C.I.A."

[A former partner of the law firm, which was dissolved in 1982, denied the charge.]

Miss Alliluyeva further asserted that her second book, "Only One Year," in which she described her defection and her first year in the West, was a "collective effort" in which she had been told what to write by others, purportedly including intelligence agents.

Miss Alliluyeva said the first time she had come close to returning to Russia was after seeing a Soviet film, "Oblomov," and the second was on the anniversary of D-day, when she said she was dismayed by the lack of Western feeling for the 20 million Russians who died in World War II.

Miss Alliluyeva dwelt at length on Miss Peters, her American-born daughter. When the Soviet Union announced that Miss Alliluyeva's citizenship had been given back to her, it added that it had granted citizenship to Miss Peters. United States diplomats have said that Miss Peters, who received American citizenship by birth, remains an American citizen.

Miss Alliluyeva heatedly assailed her former husband, William Wesley Peters, an architect she married in 1970 and from whom she was divorced in 1973. She asserted that Mr. Peters married her in anticipation of sharing her wealth, and left her when he realized he had overestimated her worth. She said he had shown no interest in their daughter and that he had waived all custody claims.

At the end of her statement, Miss Alliluyeva said: "I ask you to understand that I have returned to the city where I was born almost 59 years ago. My school, my university, my friends, my children and grandchildren are here."

"I'm home at last. What more do you want? What more do I need to explain? We have been met here like the prodigal son in the times of the Bible, and I can only say I'm infinitely grateful."